

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 24 as follows.

--Fig. 13 is a graphical representation of a BLAST output from the EST database as described in Example 6 and a gel depicting the successful PCR amplification of fragments of the human gremlin mRNA transcript from human mesangial cells. The gel shows that unambiguous association of the fragment cloned in the SSH analysis with the human gremlin open reading frame (ORF) could be achieved by PCR using a 3'-primer from the cloned sequence and a 5'-primer from the ORF sequence, in the database, to generate a primary PCR product of 2.5kb.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 7 of the amended sheet numbered as page 16 as follows.

--Fig. 24 shows a gels depicting the outcome of RTPR analysis from the experiments of Example 9, measuring the levels of BMP-2, BMP-4 and GAPDH (control) mRNA in mesangial cells cultured for 7 days in the presence of 5mM or 30mM glucose. Selective expression of BMP-2 in 30mM glucose is detected is a graphical representation of representative reactions of four independent experiments described in Example 9.--